



County Administrative Office
Governmental & Legislative Affairs

Josh Candelaria
Director

April 6, 2018

The Honorable Blanca Rubio
Chair, Assembly Human Services Committee
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: **AB 2043** (Arambula) – as Amended on March 19, 2018 – **SUPPORT**

Dear Chairwoman Rubio:

The County of San Bernardino is pleased to support AB 2043 which would establish a Family Urgent Response System for foster youth and caregivers. This bill would provide immediate intervention services, through telephone support and in-person mobile response to current or former foster youth and their caregivers in times of emotional crisis that will help keep families intact.

Counties are diligently working to implement the Continuum of Care Reform (CCR) effort, which seeks to reduce the use of congregate care and serve foster youth in home-based settings. CCR envisioned that services would be brought to the home, rather than requiring foster youth to move from family to congregate care in order to receive needed services. Unfortunately, a key element missing from the CCR effort is an immediate response system to stabilize youth in their homes and communities during times of emotional or behavioral stress. For foster youth who have traumatic experiences, even minor incidents can become triggers that result in an emotional outburst or negative behaviors. Without immediate support, youth and their caregivers can feel quickly overwhelmed. This can result in a breakdown of the family unit, leading to a placement disruption which can further traumatize the youth.

AB 2043, with sufficient State funding for any cost increases, will fill this gap by establishing a statewide, toll-free number for foster youth and their caregivers to access real-time assistance and make a direct connection to a local response system. These local response systems would provide an in-person response to assess and stabilize the situation and link the youth and caregiver to the existing array of county and community-based services. Both the state-level and local response teams would include responders trained in trauma-informed response.

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For these reasons, the County of San Bernardino is pleased to support AB 2043 and respectfully requests an "Aye" vote. If you have any questions regarding the County's position, please contact Josh Candelaria, Director of Governmental and Legislative Affairs at (909) 387-4821 or jcandelaria@sbcounty.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert A. Lovingood". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Robert" being more legible than the last name "Lovingood".

Robert A. Lovingood
First District Supervisor
Chairman, San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors

c: The Honorable Joaquin Arambula
Members and Consultants, Assembly Human Services Committee
San Bernardino County Legislative Delegation